LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP) WORKING GROUP MEETING #10

Thursday, February 2, 2016 ◆ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Veterans Park, 6662 Loveland Street, Bell Gardens, CA 90201

SUMMARY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

On February 2, 2017, California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon of the 63rd Assembly District and the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy (RMC) co-hosted the tenth meeting of the Working Group for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP). The purpose of the meeting was to identify potential issues and opportunities associated with specific sites along the Lower Los Angeles River.

Meeting Format and Agenda

The tenth meeting of the Working Group occurred on February 2, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Veterans Park, 6662 Loveland Street, Bell Gardens. Approximately 24 representatives and 25 community members participated in the meeting (Attachment B).

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer of the RMC opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and explaining the purpose and objectives of the meeting. This meeting was hosted by the City of Bell Gardens and Working Group Member, Councilmember Pedro Aceituno. Mr. Aceituno also welcomed the attendees and introduced special guests from the City of Bell Gardens and Mayor Jose Mendoza. Mayor Mendoza thanked the participants for visiting the Bell Gardens, noting the City's unique location between the Lower LA River and the Rio Hondo, and the importance of revitalizing river to the Bell Gardens community.

Mark Stanley then introduced Daniel Iacofano of MIG, Inc., who served as meeting facilitator and provided an overview of the agenda (Attachment A) and meeting format before asking for self-introductions from all participants. Mr. Iacofano included PowerPoint slides to support review of agenda items and discussion points (Attachment C). After reviewing upcoming meetings and agendas for the Working Group's Plan Element and River Segment Committees, Mr. Iacofano invited meeting participants to join small groups for an interactive mapping exercise and discussions.

SUMMARY OF SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Participants mapped issues and opportunities at the following sites along the Lower L.A. River:

- I-710/Atlantic Boulevard
- Rio Hondo Confluence
- Compton Creek Confluence
- River Estuary

Participants joined a small group corresponding to the site of their choice. Each group was briefed on the site's context and existing conditions by a project team member, and participants also added their insights about the context. Participants then discussed issues, opportunities, and possibilities for the future of each site while facilitators recorded comments on sheets of flip chart paper and large maps.

Representatives from each small group reported back to the full Working Group on major issues and opportunities as noted on flip chart pages and large maps. Andy Pendoley of MIG recorded key points on a large sheet of wallgraphic paper (Attachment D). The following sections provide a summary of overarching themes, detailed discussion points from each small group, and photo-reduced copies of the maps.

Overarching Themes

Following are overarching themes of issues and opportunities from all small group discussions.

Issues

- Insufficient trail maintenance
- Limited crossings
- Poor air, soil and water quality
- Numerous industrial land uses
- Poor connectivity
- Lack of open space

Opportunities

- Develop multi-use pathways
- Use public art as a beautification tool
- Restore natural habitat
- Improve soil and water quality
- Create opportunities for recreation activities
- Improve aesthetics with trees and gateways
- Provide amenities such as shade and seating

I-710/Atlantic Boulevard

Issues

- Excessive trash along power easement
- Insufficient connectivity
 - Residents of Maywood and Vernon cannot easily access recreation spaces located across the River from their communities
 - Slauson bridge is too narrow to accommodate pedestrians or people riding bikes
 - Traffic congestion along Atlantic Boulevard creates a dangerous pedestrian environment
- Lack of shade and greenery along existing trails
- Open space adjacent to the I-710 freeway is problematic for public health

Opportunities

- Create a designated path for pedestrians and people riding bikes
- Consider adding a steel-frame extension to the Slauson Bridge for pedestrian access
- Expand wetlands to improve wildlife habitat
- Coordinate with existing traffic mitigation projects in Vernon, particularly along Atlantic Boulevard
- Develop job trails between Slauson, Atlantic, and Washington Boulevards
- Create murals along bike path
- Add trees along District Boulevard bike path to increase shade
- Implement best management practices for runoff and soil remediation
- Consider upstream remediation to improve industrial and dry weather runoff
- Develop multi-use paths
- Improve bike access within the community through paths, lights, and bi-lingual signage
- Improve walkability and pedestrian access points
- Use vacant lot for wildlife habitat, wetlands and terracing along the right of way
- Consider park opportunities at "Frog Spot"
- Improve in-channel access





LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN ATLANTIC BLVD/710 FREEWAY FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Rio Hondo Confluence

Issues

- Fenced off LADWP easements are a barrier to river access
- Connectivity is an issue at Imperial Highway
- Railroad crossing
- Area lacks art and culture amenities
 - Native American History
 - Education
- The river is not designed as an amenity which creates a safety risk for recreational users
- Lack of community outreach and community involvement in institutions
- Lack of regular maintenance
- Lack of security and safety
- Lack of signage
- Narrow crossings
- Poor connectivity of multi-use trail
- Lack of restrooms
- Poor access to parking at Orchard
- Unequal access for all groups
- Long-term maintenance for future revitalized areas

Opportunities

- Include youth in the planning process
- Connect proposed school to river
 - Consider creating a multi-use facility
- Create a centerpiece for recreation, art and habitat at the confluence
- Develop wetlands where the confluence meets the freeway
- Create a habitat island
- Construct bridges to connect East and West banks
 - o Ensure crossings are wide enough for all users (multi-use)
- Consider opportunities to create an inundation area at at LACFCD Yard
- Support seasonal recreation, including kayak and paddle boat
- Promote habitat restoration
- Study affordable housing needs if large development is considered
- Create activity sites: playgrounds, nature centers, amphitheater, and oases/anchors
- Develop web-based and traditional programs (e.g., BIBA) to keep people engaged
- Improve signage
- Consider opportunities at Circle Park
- Develop open space north of Railroad Bridge
- Expand river bottom access and dry weather crossings
- Curate art along the rail line to attract attention





LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN RIO HONDO CONFLUENCE FEBRUARY 2, 2017

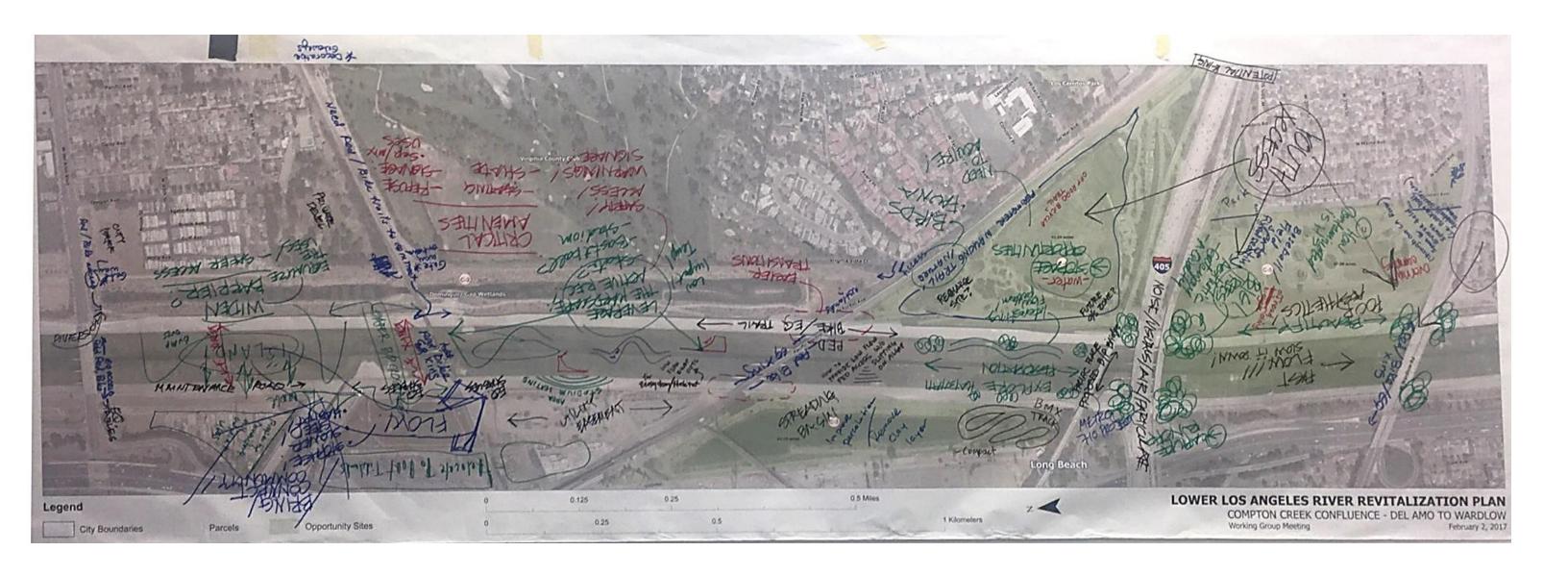
Compton Creek Confluence

Issues

- Insufficient river crossings
- Fast water flow is unsafe
- Poor aesthetics
- Lack of open space
- Insufficient greenery
- Poor air and soil quality
- Difficulty of land acquisition

Opportunities

- Improve neighborhood access
 - o Trails and crossings
 - Active areas
 - o River
 - Youth access
- Support habitat and landscape restoration
 - Protect wildlife
 - Consider environmental impacts
 - Improve aesthetics
 - Develop gateways
- Expand amenities
 - Seating
 - Signage
 - Art and culture
 - Interactive features
 - o Rest areas
 - Overlook and viewing areas
- Utilize the hardscape
 - Low flow crossings
 - Play opportunities in the River





River Estuary

Issues

- Poor connectivity through the neighborhoods to access the river
- Huge volumes of contaminants flow to Estuary, particularly related to upstream industrial, rainfall, and brackish water
- Safety issues associated with poor soil quality and moving contaminated soil

Opportunities

- Support habitat restoration along the stream
- Develop trail network on De Forest Ave
- Improve signage and navigation
- Capture and treat runoff
- Develop upstream enhancements to improve water quality downstream
- Identify plant and marine species that can naturally filter water
- Develop wetlands (preferably saltwater) near D3 and D4 sites (West 16th Street)
- Access existing soil quality data from Council on Watershed Health and the SCCWRP
- Support coastal prairie and other underrepresented ecosystems
- Develop a birding area near site D2
- Consider a multi-purpose bridge at Hill St.





LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN RIVER ESTUARY FEBRUARY 2, 2017

PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Pendoley provided an update on the progress of community engagement tasks related to project branding and development of an online mapping tool. The Community Engagement Committee is directing the project team on developing a compelling brand for the Lower LA River revitalization that will reflect the comprehensive nature of the work and honor the diverse communities in the region. A final version will be shared with the Working Group at the next meeting.

Mr. Pendoley also provided a demonstration of the online mapping tool that will be used to gather community feedback moving forward. Once developed, the interactive, web-based questionnaire will allow participants to comment on their preferences for specific locations along the River.

NEXT STEPS

Mr. Iacofano concluded the meeting by thanking Working Group members, and confirming among representatives of specific cities that the next three meetings would occur on the dates at the following locations:

- Thursday, March 2, 2017, Compton
- Thursday, April 6, 2017, Long Beach/Bixby Knolls
- Thursday, May 4, 2017, Downey

ATTACHMENT A: AGENDA

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP) WORKING GROUP PROJECT MEETING No. 10

Thursday, February 2, 2017 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Veterans Park, Ross Hall 6662 Loveland Street, Bell Gardens, CA 90201

Meeting Objectives:

- 1. Review status and next steps for Committees
- Identify preferences and priorities for design elements at opportunity sites
 Review latest developments in community engagement: branding and online questionnaire designs and community presentations
- 4. Coordinate upcoming meetings

AGENDA					
5:30 pm		Sign-In, Refreshments and Networking!			
6:00 pm	l.	Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Overview Mark Stanley, Executive Officer, RMC Mayor Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens Daniel Iacofano, Meeting Facilitator, MIG			
6:10 pm	H.	Updates: Committees' Next Steps			
6:15 pm	III.	Small Groups: Discussion of Opportunity Sites A Potential Design Elements and Options B. Preferences and Priorities C. Small Group Reports			
7:30 pm	IV.	Update: Community Engagement Activities A. Project Identification and Branding B. Web-Based Community Questionnaire and Mapping C. Community Presentations			
8:15 pm	VI.	Summary and Next Steps			
8:20 pm	VII.	Announcements and Public Comment			
8:30 pm	VIII.	Meeting Closeand Networking!			

ATTACHMENT B: SIGN IN SHEETS

AB 530 LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN WORKING GROUP LIST

	Organization	Appointee	Appintee's Email	Alternate(s)	Alternate's Email	
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-3	City of South Gate	JOIRE MOINES	lorgemoratesh (e/gman.com	Gladis Deras 🏒	gderas@sogate.org	

^{*} Resigned from the Working Group/no longer in office

Page 1 of 3

^{**} Primary alternate

AB 530 LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN WORKING GROUP LIST

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Page 3 of 3

AB 530 LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN WORKING GROUP LIST

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Page 2 of 3

^{**} Primary alternate

AB 530 LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN Working Group Meeting No. 10

February 2, 2017

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

	Name	Organization	Phone	Email
1	Nek Bredsband	Public Health Environmental Hadin	636430 5360	nls raids and a ph. la countrigos
2	J. Mendorn	Mayor of Bell Gunder	323-308-9692	Imenclora qualeyahar
3	Bylan 5 Maller	Urlow Health Strategies	319-754-6814	by pan Qurbanhealthstratege
4	Caroline Drug	Bother Wats		corja@wcac org
5	Andrés Molina	WSPI Parsons Bringkerhoff	213-362-9483	Molinavephworld.com
6	Christophe Craig	Asm. Cristian Garcia	562-861-5803	Christopher. wajg@asm.ca.
7	Melissa Bahmanpour		323-494-6497	
8	Ang Bomila	UCLA Ulban Panning	507 900-1078	aiparavz@gmail.com
9	Veronice Soto	Grevald Cities	562 964-8396	Vsoto Cemeraldaties cy
10	Wenty Angel	Emerald Cities	Su2 413 · Su08	wangel @ emerald cities.om

Page 1



AB 530 LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN Working Group Meeting No. 10

February 2, 2017

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

	Name	Organization	Phone	Email
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12	Robin Mark	TPL	323. 223. 0441 x	rdain. musk Catping
1 1		TRAILISTALL	202) 202)	BACENOREAGO CA RE COM
14	Evelyn Nono	William C. Velasquez Instite	323-332-6166	enuno@ wevcry
15	Melissa von Majhauser	LA Waterheeper	310-394-6162	Melissavm@ pwaterkeeper
16	BRIAN BALDAUF	MRCA	323 221 9944 XIIO	BRIAN BALDADE CARCA.
17		ly ormality		achapa Chos. lawway.cov
18	MART ROMERO	HLA	213 8078811	Matthen@ Wlagreen.com
19	Maurice Pantoja	Public Heelth	626 430 -5595	mponto; coph lawordy. Jos
20	And Karen Monrost	Cttice of Sup. Solis-1st Disl.	(323)718-4623	arroniroy (a bos. laccorty.on

Page 2

AB 530 LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN

Working Group Meeting No. 10 February 2, 2017

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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Page 3

ATTACHMENT C: POWERPOINT SLIDES

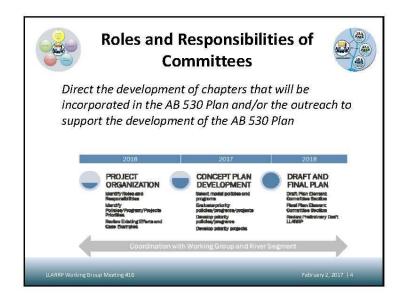
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Agenda Welcome, Introductions and Overview Updates: Committees' Next Steps Small Groups: Opportunity Sites Update: Community Engagement Summary and Next Steps Announcements and Public Comments LARRP Working Group Meeting #10

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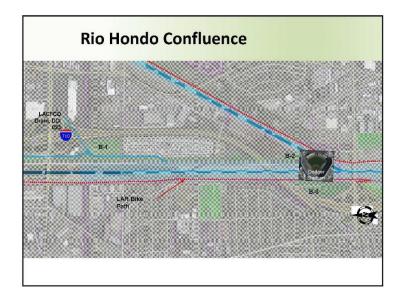




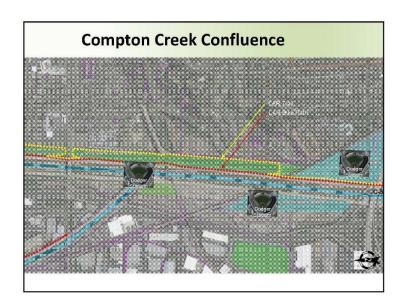
Discussion Objectives Understand the current context and conditions of key sites: I-710/Atlantic Rio Hondo Confluence Compton Creek Confluence Estuary Review and refine issues and opportunities Identify possibilities for the future Report to full Working Group Review and refine issues and opportunities February 2, 2017 18

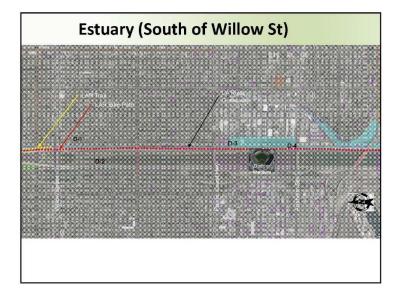
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Discussion Framework

- Site overview--issues and opportunities:
 - Land uses and buildings
 - Habitat
 - Water quality and supply
 - Connectivity
 - · Parks and recreation
 - Art and culture
- Discussion questions:
 - What are additional issues for this site?
 - · What are additional opportunities for this site?
 - What are the possibilities for capitalizing on the opportunities?
 - What would be most appropriate for the site?

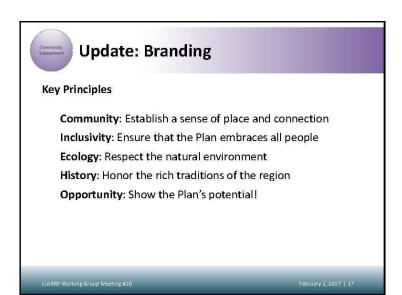
LLARRP Working Group Meeting #10

February 2, 2017 | 13



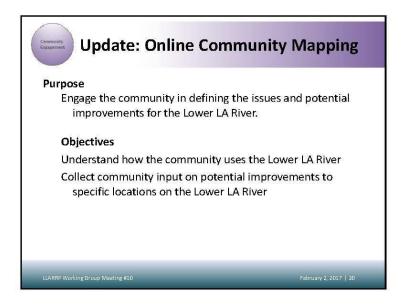






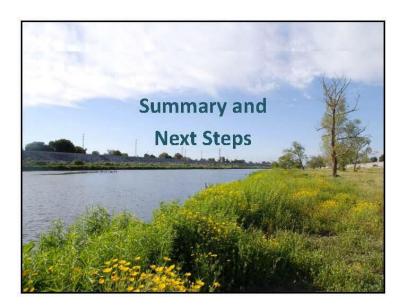












Meeting Schedule

- First Thursday of each month
- 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Through February 2018
- · Next meetings:
 - Thursday, March 2, 2017, Compton
 - Thursday, April 6, 2017, Long Beach/Bixby Knolls
 - Thursday, May 4, 2017, Downey
 - Thursday, June 1, 2017, ???

LLARRP Working Group Meeting #10

February 2, 2017 | 24





ATTACHMENT D: WALLGRAPHIC

